

Creating spaces to work

Experiences





My story

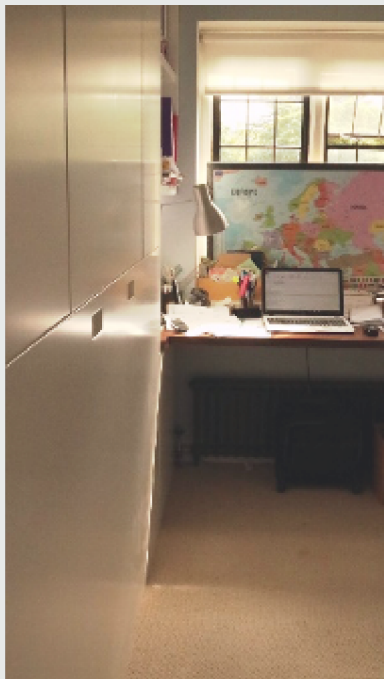
I have been 'working from home' for nearly 20 years now, since returning to London from Asia. I have always been fortunate enough to have a dedicated area put aside which I created in my first apartment in a tiny box room. Moving to Putney, and with an expanding wall bed business to manage, I found myself in a much larger apartment with a small spare bedroom which was narrow (like many older 30's purpose built apartments).

Jeremy Waller
Managing Director
Wallbed Systems Ltd.

Our distribution partners in Australia were visiting as I was moving in and I mentioned the challenges. Fortunately, they run a successful cabinet business there and I received some great suggestions and a design for creating a work space, storage and also an emergency wall bed installation to illustrate what can be achieved with wall beds. I had this installed around eight years ago and have, on occasion, used the bed when inundated with guests and grandchildren, who love the disappearing beds in Grandad's new flat.

'Disappearing beds'

The room is about 11 sq m and long but only 3m wide so a single horizontal wall bed met the requirement. Additionally, a couple of wine fridges and wrap-around work area for hobbies were added plus a massive amount of wall storage and cupboards.



My space, my needs: horizontal or vertical



I installed another horizontal panel bed in the other, larger, guest room too – a complete panel wall again creating a huge amount of space. The cabinet maker in south London took a liking to me as I requested various other work too - in veneers and in painted white mdf.



I hope these images and ideas will help when planning your own space. It is really helpful to get advice and insights, including those from creative friends, on how to create space.

Cabinet makers are an important part of the solution if you want a 'built in' approach, and you can make cabinets as simple or as elaborate as you wish. At WBS we, and our distributors around the world, can often connect you to local cabinet makers and designers to assist your project. All kits come with cabinet drawings and instructions and I do know that some people, from choice, have created innovative approaches. Some of our wall bed models can actually be used without a cabinet which means that one can get really creative indeed, with planks, textiles and screens. Take a look at these as examples of creativity at play.

Select models can be self-assembled with no cabinetry requirement



The WBS 'NeXT bed used with 'plank' headboard and base, by a creative designer in Japan to eliminate the cabinet totally.

Note the planks are finished in white on the top, and left natural underneath, and they have added upholstery to cover the sub frame. This type of thinking means that a wall bed can be set up and used on day of arrival, and if necessary the cabinet eliminated or added later.

Versatility and simplicity



Home office

Desks that fold away neatly and quickly on wall bed opening



Free
standing



Here is one new design where sliding doors create access to our NeXT bed. Being free standing, the NeXT bed does not impose any loading on the cabinet so designers are free to create any type of cabinet at all.



Sliding doors: for space optimisation



Linen hopsack made to measure roman blind system



Wood or plissé shutter system



There are a range of alternative option and methods to cover the wall bed. Various forms, including pull-down screens, blinds, shades, tambours and panel curtains, can be installed and matched to window curtains.

If you already have a recess in a wall large enough to fit your preferred size of NeXT bed, you could even fit the roller screen direct to the walls either side which would really be an easy home project and significantly reduces time and cost.

And now for a non-wallbed story

In my previous apartment in central London, the kitchen was tiny - less than 3m² - but we discovered the ceiling had been lowered by almost a metre. An architect friend suggested raising the ceiling to its original height and to make space for a dishwasher and larger useable sink/preparation area.

With this unconventional approach, we moved the fridge up higher, well above the work top so that we needed steps to access the top section...yes, unconventional to have to go on a mountaineering expedition to reach the top section of the fridge but it transformed the space in the kitchen area. It also helped waistlines. All the 'nice' high calorie food was located at this new elevation, so required an effort to reach.

Also we extended the new cabinets right up to the new high ceiling level adding nearly 800mm height all around. There are always plenty of items in a kitchen which are seldom used so those soon found their way up to the newly expanded storage level.

Murphy is a generic name used for decades to describe wall beds. They originated in the USA early in the 20th century and have not changed much since then. Lower costs of production, better materials, and improved cabinet designs have contributed to increasing awareness of them as a great way to have a real, comfortable bed and create masses of extra room. We use springs of our own manufacture in all our beds as we find that they enable precise adjustment of tension, which means you can always lift your bed with the utmost ease.

Our aim has always been to design wall beds which are easier to buy, faster to install and safe and easy to use with finger-tip control.

We produce many thousands of bed kits every year, and ship all over the globe. We have stock somewhere near wherever you are and any help in making sure the one you choose is perfect for you.

Having worked in the mattress business in Asia for many years I knew that affordable mattresses suitable for wall beds would be available everywhere. Our wall bed designs fit full height mattresses and up to 300mm so no compromises on comfort. Many of our clients, across 22 countries, sleep on our wall beds every night, a clear indication WBS succeeds in what we do.

Many more designs are available so do contact us for more information and details of where you can buy and see them.

**Wallbed Systems Ltd.
132 Highlands Heath
Portsmouth Rd
London SW15 3TZ**

**www.wallbedsystems.co.uk
jeremy.waller@wallbedsystems.co.uk**

+44 208 704 5796